



**TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

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**REPORT TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION  
TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE ON OPERATION NASSE 2025**

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**Submitted by the United States**



## **Report to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Technical and Compliance Committee**

### **Overview of Operation Nasse**

Operation NASSE is an annual multi-lateral regional maritime surveillance operation between Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America (i.e. Pacific Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group or “Pacific Quad” partners) focused on combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) by detecting, boarding, and inspecting Fishing Vessels (FVs) to verify compliance by the vessel and flag state with relevant Conventions, and Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) that have been adopted by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The operation makes an important contribution to compliance and monitoring within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and helps strengthen regional cooperation to address IUU fishing.

Operation NASSE 2025 (NASSE25) occurred from 1 June to 30 July 2025, with the Joint Coordination Center (JCC) hosted by the United States and located in Honolulu, HI, operating from 1 - 11 July 2025 (Hawaiian Standard Time dates). NASSE25 also included participants from the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Aerial and surface assets were deployed by Australia, New Zealand, France, and the United States.

NASSE25’s objective is to enhance maritime surveillance within the WCPO to deter, detect, and report IUU fishing, contributing to the long-term sustainability of tuna fisheries within the region. NASSE25 aimed at improving:

- Understanding fishing practices and related compliance issues.
- Accuracy of regional fishing activity data.
- Assessment of the health of key fish stocks, especially South Pacific Albacore (SPA).
- Practical application and enforcement of WCPFC CMMs.
- Application of Port State measures.

## Outcomes of the Operation

Key achievements of NASSE25 included:

- Five surface patrols, resulting in 16 high seas boardings and inspections, 14 boardings within participant exclusive economic zones (EEZs), and two radio interrogations.
- Two aerial patrols, resulting in more than 80 fishing vessels sighted.
- EEZ and high seas analysis strengthened by Pacific Island Country participation and enhanced collaboration (Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, & Vanuatu), resulting in 07 targeted port state inspections.
- Leveraging satellite remote sensing (radio frequency and synthetic aperture radar), stronger collection management, and improved data integration analysis, resulting in 5030 space detections and 15 tasked collections.
- Adoption of a shared Vessels of Interest (VOI) list, resulting in 284 vessels collectively identified and tracked during NASSE25.
- Innovative combined use of remote sensing platforms, AIS, and VMS targeting revealing 39 potential compliance actions which were referred to the relevant flag state.

Through this operation, participating nations continue to provide robust monitoring, control, and surveillance to ensure the sustainable management of Pacific fisheries.

Potential breaches of WCPFC CMMs were identified from HSBi:

- **CMM 2004-03 - Specifications for the Marking and Identification of Fishing Vessels**  
One vessel was identified as potentially non-compliant with the WCPFC Identification Number (WIN) marking size requirements.
- **CMM 2006-08 - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Boarding and Inspection Procedures**  
One vessel was identified as potentially fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag Member, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention.
- **CMM 2018-03 – Conservation Management Measure to Mitigate the Impact of Fishing for Highly Migratory Fish Stocks on Seabirds**

Five vessels were identified as potentially non-compliant with seabird mitigation measures, including not meeting the minimum specifications for tori lines. These vessels are on the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) record of fishing vessel and had Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) catch on board, this is also non-compliance with CCSBT obligations, for further information see CCSBT Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs.\*

- **CMM 2022-06-Conservation and Management Measure on Daily Catch and Effort Reporting**

One vessel was identified as potentially non-compliant with recording interaction information about other species.

- **CMM 2014-02-Conservation and Management Measure for the Commission VMS.**

Twenty-seven vessels were identified to be operating on the high seas without VMS reporting to the WCPFC.

\*Due to the presence of Southern Bluefin Tuna onboard five of the boats inspected, the respective HSBI reports were also forwarded to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in accordance with the [CCSBT MCS information collection and sharing Compliance Policy Guideline 4](#).

The United States would like to thank regional partners, fishers, and flag States for their cooperation and coordination during Operation Nasse 2025.